



MICROGRAPHIA

or skins, such as the Wings of Dragon-flies; in others, over-grown, or pretty thick befluck, with short bristles; in others, those filmes are covered, both on the upper and lower side, with small Feathers, plac'd almost like the tiles on a roof; in others, curiously rang'd and adorn'd with most lively colours, as is observable in Butter-flies, and several kinds of Moths; In their films, Nature has provided nothing, but a matter of stalks (if I well remember the number; for I have not late seen one of these flies, and did not, when I first observ'd them, take notice of divers particulars) and each of these stalks, with a few fine hairs on each side, resembling much the branched back-bone of a Fish, or a thin hair'd Peacocks feather; the stalks being broken off. With a few of these on either side (when they are shut up or expand at pleasure, much like a Fan, or rather like the structure of the feathers in a wing, which ly all one underneath, and by the side of each other, when expanded) I have seen a grey Moth (for such was the creature I observ'd, thus was it very nimble, and as it seem'd very easily move its corpus in the Air, from place to place. Other Insects have their wings covered over, with certain hollow shells, shap'd almost like those in which Butchers carry meat, whose hollow sides being turned inwards, do not only secure their folded wings from injury, but in which most of those creatures reside, but whilst they are open, they help to sustain and bear them up. And these are observable in a multitude of other terrestrial *crustaceous* Insects; yet further observe a particular providence of Nature.

Now in all these kinds of wings, we observe this part to be most worthy remark; that where ever a wing consists of several parts, the Pores or *interstitia* between those parts are very much bigger, or much smaller, then these which we here observe in the particles of these brushes, so that it should seem to in the parts of the Air are such, that they will not easily or readily pass through these Pores, so that they seem to be strainers finer than the particles of the Air (whether hinder'd by their *agitation, circulation, rotation or undulation*; I shall not say, but from getting through them, and by that means, serve the purpose better, then if they were little films. I say, if not, I have observ'd that all those creatures, that have film'd wings, move abundantly quicker and more strongly, such as all kind of *rabees* and Batts, then such as have their wings covered with scales, as Butter-flies and Birds, or twigs, as Moths, which have a much slower motion of their wings; That little ruggedness of their wings helping them somewhat, by taking better hold of the Air, or not suffering them so easily to pass by, any other way.

But what ever be the reason of it, 'tis most evident, that wing'd Insects have the strongest Muscles or movent parts, and the other much weaker; and this very Insect, we are